

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Llŷr Gruffydd AM
Chair of Finance Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddBusiness@Assembly.wales

5 July 2019

Dear Llŷr,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Finance Committee regarding the timetable for the 2020-21 Budget.

In accordance with Standing Order 20, I have written to the chair of the Business Committee to set out the dates on which the draft budget will be laid and the annual budget motion will be tabled. This year, however, we are faced with an unprecedented level of uncertainty regarding the UK Government's intentions for a Comprehensive Spending Review. We do not know yet when it will take place or the period it will cover. There have also been comments in recent days by the contenders for the leadership of the Conservative Party and, ultimately, Prime Minister regarding the possibility of the new UK Government publishing its Budget in September. For those reasons, it is challenging to provide certainty at this stage on the dates we will publish the draft and final 2020-21 Budgets.

Standing Order 20.6 does, however, make provision for the Committee to make changes to the timetable at the request of the Government. Subject to this, and on the understanding I will provide a firm timetable as soon as possible after the UK Government has made an announcement regarding the Spending Review and its Budget, I have indicated to the Business Committee that we are planning to publish the outline and detailed draft Budgets together on 10 December, and the final Budget on 3 March 2020.

In proposing these dates I am mindful of both Standing Order 20.5 and the arrangements agreed between the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales with regard to the period provided for scrutiny. Standing Order 20.5 provides, in 'normal' circumstances, for the Finance Committee to be given 8 weeks to report on the outline budget proposals and five weeks for committees to consider the detailed Budget proposals. Whilst this cannot be termed a 'normal' year, I remain committed to ensuring the fullest possible scrutiny of our spending proposals. As a result, the timetable I have set out would enable 8 weeks for scrutiny of the draft Budget, comprising 5 sitting weeks and 3 non-sitting weeks.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

If the draft timetable were to change as a result of the timing of the spending review announcement, my intention would be to maximise the proportion of sitting weeks provided for scrutiny of the draft budget.

Should the UK Government publish their budget earlier in the Autumn, we would also look to bring forward our plans and publish the budget earlier in the event that the UK Government's timetable makes this possible.

I am grateful for the committee's understanding and I hope these arrangements are acceptable given the circumstances, which are driven by external factors beyond our immediate control and carry an unprecedented level of uncertainty.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd